

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR 16 January 1953

SUBJECT Exports of Sulphuric Acid, Caustic Soda, and Soda

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. According to the schedule for 1952, the East German requirements of sulphuric acid will exceed the East German production by 25,000 tons. However, for reasons unknown, 5,000 tons of sulphuric acid were scheduled for export in 1952, by order of the SCC.
2. A similar situation exists with regard to soda and caustic soda. The Soviet Occupation Authorities demand a high export quota although only part of the domestic requirements for soda and caustic soda can be met. At present, the soda production is far below the established quota. The balance between production and requirements of caustic soda is somewhat more favorable. Due to this shortage "Persil" has not been sold locally for several months and has been produced for export only.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. Washing powder.

2. [REDACTED] Comment. To date, no accurate figures are known concerning East German requirements and production of sulphuric acid, soda and caustic soda. However, since 1946 there has constantly been a critical shortage of sulphuric acid, soda and caustic soda, because the plant capacities were considerably reduced by Soviet dismantlings. The annual capacity for the production of sulphuric acid dropped from 400,000 tons to 193,000 tons; the productive capacity for soda dropped from 500,000 tons to 25,000 tons, and the productive capacity for caustic soda dropped from 298,000 tons to 85,000 tons. This shortage will not be overcome before 1955 and then only if the respective production targets of the Five Year plan are achieved. According to the Five Year plan 450,000 tons of sulphuric acid, 640,000 tons of soda and 300,000 tons of caustic soda will be produced in 1955.

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